

We should pass the Strategic Production Response Act to transition supply concerns from stopgap measures to permanent production solutions.

And we should pass the PIPES Act, which I introduced, to prevent a sitting President from unilaterally attacking existing domestic energy infrastructure.

Let's not forget: America was energy independent just 2 short years ago. There is a path to regaining that independence and bringing down prices at the pump if President Biden will reverse course and flip the switch on American energy.

My constituents cannot afford \$5-plus per gallon of gas. They need relief. We need relief. America needs relief, and fast.

ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, gun violence, as we know, is plaguing our Nation. In 2022, this year, there have already been 200 mass shootings in the United States. Think about that. It is absolutely horrific.

We ask ourselves, when is enough enough?

Our constituents across the country ask us, how many more innocent people must die before any reasonable, commonsense gun reform legislation can pass and add more protection for the American public?

Let's pass the Protecting Our Kids Act, which raises the purchasing age for semiautomatic weapons from 18 to 21, a commonsense idea. Let's also deal with the subject of ghost gun purchases and background checks. Again, commonsense ideas, and cracks down on gun trafficking and straw purchases.

If the combination of the Protecting Our Kids Act is something that you might find objectionable in some instance, we have individual pieces of legislation, resources for victims of gun violence, bipartisan background checks, assault weapons ban, legislation that would also go further to provide protection in condemning the horrific shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, and dealing with hate, bigotry, and violence against Asian-American and Pacific-Islander communities.

We also have legislation that would designate June 4th National Gun Violence Awareness Day. There is legislation that deals with disarming of hate, and to try to provide extreme risk protection for Federal firearms sales to include those who are subject to extreme risk protection that we know red-flag legislation would help protect us against.

So, there are a lot of things we can do. Will we totally eliminate the threats to the public? Of course not.

But there are commonsense ideas we can do to improve and increase safety for our schools, for our churches, and for people who are just going to shop

for groceries one afternoon. These are things we can do, and we should do.

As chair of the Congressional Crime Survivors and Justice Caucus, I am advocating for resources for survivors of gun violence to cope with their trauma, whether it be in Sacramento or Fresno or anywhere else around this country.

I support the Second Amendment for responsible gun ownership. Let that be clear. But America deserves better, and I call on all House Members to join me in this effort. Let's put partisanship aside and take action to address the gun epidemic once and for all.

Madam Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 2 minutes remaining.

CELEBRATING DIA DE PORTUGAL

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today also to celebrate Dia de Portugal, which is a significant holiday for Portuguese people all over the world.

My grandparents came to the United States from the Azore Islands in the late 19th century and the turn of the 20th century, 1897 to 1904. Illiterate, non-English speaking, like immigrants past and immigrants present, coming to America to have a better life for themselves. But they never, ever left their pride of their home country, Portugal, or their sense of culture, which lives in me today.

Portugal is one of America's longest and strongest allies, as it was the first to recognize the United States as an independent Nation after the Revolutionary War.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the AMIGOS Act, introduced by our colleague and Congressman DAVID CICILLINE. It would create more American jobs and increase investment in the United States by strengthening our bonds with Portugal. As the co-chair of the Portuguese Caucus, I think it is important that we continue to build on this relationship and the trade that already exists today.

I urge the Senate to pass this bipartisan legislation and, again, we will continue to work with other colleagues of ours who are part of our Portuguese-American Caucus to continue to advocate for mutual interests, not only for Portugal but for the United States and the Portuguese-American community.

"Happy Portugal Day." "Feliz Dia de Portugal."

Let us celebrate and let us remember that America is a stronger country because of our welcoming of immigrants past and present, and this is a part of that recognition.

□ 1100

FARM BILL IMPACT SERIES NUMBER 10: RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, in preparation for reauthorizing the farm bill

in 2023, I rise today to deliver the tenth installment of my farm bill impact series where I am highlighting various aspects of the farm bill that deserve this Congress' awareness and support.

Rural Development programs exist within the farm bill because the people of rural America, many of whom work to feed, fuel, and clothe us all, must remain connected to their families, local communities, and the world to do their jobs.

Communities are made up of families, and families in rural areas need well-built affordable housing in order to thrive. USDA Rural Development's Single Family Housing Programs enable families and individuals to buy, build, or repair affordable homes located in rural America. Through these programs, qualifying individuals can finance a new home with no money down or get financial assistance to repair their wells, hookups to rural water, septic, plumbing, heating, air-conditioning, and electrical systems, insulation, and storm shelters or safe rooms.

USDA Rural Development is also committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America, and every strong community needs strong local businesses. The Business and Industry Loan Guarantee program improves the economic health of rural communities by increasing access to business capital through loan guarantees, as well as enabling commercial lenders to provide affordable financing to rural businesses.

In Healy, Kansas, the Sharp Brothers Seed Company has sold native grass seeds since 1958. They needed additional working capital to build up their inventory for a Conservation Reserve Program enrollment, so they used the USDA Rural Development Business and Industry program to secure a \$5 million guaranteed loan for additional working capital. This program helped make their operation stronger than ever before, which is good for rural Kansas.

Finally, strengthening rural broadband will help ensure that rural Americans, agricultural producers included, can keep pace with an increasingly tech-driven society and international marketplace. I believe that taxpayer dollars must be spent judiciously on existing broadband programs, and the goals set by the USDA and the FCC must be realistic.

Last summer, the House Agriculture Committee advanced the Broadband Internet Connections for Rural America Act out of committee, which authorizes \$43 billion toward critical infrastructure in rural communities. I also joined several of my House Republican colleagues and introduced legislation that would leverage the ReConnect program with some of the 2018 rural broadband investments in rural areas with little or no internet access.

The ReConnect program is an example of a successful public-private partnership. Its matching grants help cover the cost of cable, implementation, and installment for broadband in rural